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goal of one unit for every county was fulfilled. (There were 517 counties in Central-South China, according to the 1955 People's Handbook.) On a lower level, among the 4,386 ch'ü in Central-South China, 670 health centers and 136 clinics were opened. Since 1949, according to the report, 134 additional hospitals had been opened in the cities and the number of trained workers had tripled. Approximately 6,605 doctors were reported.[8]

III. THE HEALTH OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

One of the most significant early documents of the Chinese Communist regime was the Common Program. The health of women and children was given special attention in Article 48, which specified that attention should be paid to the protection of the health of mothers, infants, and children.[9] The Constitution, adopted on September 20, 1954, provides for the physical and mental development of the young people and the rights of women.[10] In speeches and reports on health matters in Communist China, the promotion of the well-being of women and children

8. Chang-chiang Jih-pao [Yangtze Daily], Sept. 30, 1952, p. 3.

9. The Important Documents of the First Plenary Session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Peking, Foreign Languages Press, 1949, p. 8.

10. Constitution of the People's Republic of China, Peking, Foreign Languages Press, 1954, Article 94, 96, pp. 98-99.

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has almost always been given prominence. The training of midwives, the re-education of "old-style" midwives, the establishment of maternity stations and health centers for women and children, and the prevention of various children's diseases have been particularly publicized in public health work in the Central-South Region as well as in the country as a whole.

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In mid-1952, in the six provinces of Central-South China, it was reported that 30,500 midwives were trained, and 50,000 - 60,000 additional midwives were scheduled to finish training by the end of the year. Other types of health cadres were trained to work for the betterment of the health of women and children. The same report expressed the hope that in a year or two there would be two midwives in every hsiang (village) in the region.[11]

When the vice-chairman of the Kwangtung People's Government made his four-year progress report in 1954, he claimed that 4,717 medical, nursing, and maternity workers and 19,000 midwives in the rural areas had been trained during that period in Kwangtung. As proof of the betterment of health of women and children in Kwangtung, he cited the results of an investigation in Yungyun (Weng-yüan) which showed a decrease in the infant mortality rate from 30 per cent to 2 per cent after the introduction of modern obstetrics in 1951.[12] (see p 352)

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11. Yangtze Daily, Sept. 30, 1952, p. 3.

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students of Wuhan University worked to win "victory from the flood."[30] The same report listed the work of these students accomplished; they dug 9,352 carloads and 100 boatloads of dirt, removed 151,838 "shoulder poles" of dirt, loaded and unloaded 5,437 carloads and 491 boatloads of dirt, and transported 2,009 carloads of dirt and 730 carloads of rocks. "Triumph over the flood" was achieved by human efforts. In fighting the flood of 1954, 12,000,000 refugees were used as common laborers.[31]

An editorial in the People's Daily on December 19, 1954 not only summed up the flood and relief situation, but also made certain criticisms. In some famine-stricken areas in Hupeh, sufficient attention was not paid to the organization of production to combat the famine. Some cadres did not have a clear idea of state relief and loans, and in these areas they grew slack or even gave up leadership. In the co-operation necessary among those engaged in fighting the flood and in flood prevention, some groups failed to respond with "full understanding and whole-hearted support."[32]

V. CHILD WELFARE

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Following the international practice of dedicating one day in the year to children, April 4 was promulgated as China's Children's Day by the Nationalist Government in 1931. But the Chinese Communist

30. Ibid., Oct. 20, 1954, p. 2.

31. Relief Work Under the Chinese Communists, p. 10.

32. People's Daily, Dec. 19, 1954, p. 1.

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regime changed this date to June 1st, in accordance with a decision made by the International Democratic Women's Federation in 1949 at Moscow.[33] Children's Day as it is celebrated in the United States and in Great Britain was branded as capitalistic, i. e., not designed for the well-being of the children of the laboring classes. Around June 1st every year, all the propaganda media are mobilized for the promotion of child welfare, praise of the happy state of children in Communist China and in the Communist bloc of nations, and derogatory references to the "plight" of children in free nations. And it is also around this time in most large cities on the China Mainland that health examinations for children are conducted. In the period 1950-52, according to one report, more than 1,000,000 children throughout China received health examinations.[34]

On the morning of June 1, 1952, more than 2,000 young representatives of various schools, including representatives from the Soviet Union, Korea, India, Japan, gathered in Wuhan to celebrate Children's Day. Words of greeting were delivered by municipal officials, labor models, and a "fighting heroine," as well as by the Red Dean of Canterbury, Hewlett Johnson, who at this time was touring Communist China. In the afternoon, more than 10,000 children participated in a celebration held in Chung-shan Park.[35]

33. Hung Hsin-t'ao, Chi-nien Chieh-jih Shih-shih Ts'-liao [History of the Memorial Days], Shanghai, 1953, Vol. I, pp. 180-83.

34. Hsin-hua Jih-pao [New China Daily], Chungking, May 30, 1953, p. 3.

35. Yangtze Daily, June 2, 1952, p. 1.

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In Canton, in addition to similar celebrations, the Municipal "Children's Palace" was formally opened on June 1, 1952. As a "cultural center" for the children, the "palace" was reported to have a capacity of 1, 500, and three departments -- political education, artistic education, and a department of science -- as well as a children's library.[36]

A three-year progress report on child welfare was made by the Central-South Democratic Women's Federation in 1952. Incomplete statistics showed that 70 creches to care for 2, 000 children had been established in the urban districts, and that temporary organizations in the rural areas helped to care for 30, 000 children during the busy farm seasons. In the municipality of Wuhan before the Communist "liberation" in May 1949, the report stated, there had been only one crêche caring for 35 children, but in mid-1952 the number of creches had increased to 28, caring for 1, 000 children. The report claimed such achievements as a lower death rate for both infants and mothers and better health provisions for women and children. (See chapter on Health and Sanitation.) However, it also pointed out that in the many phases of child welfare, there was much need for improvement, especially in raising the standard of education for welfare workers.[37]

The first conference of the workers in women's and children's welfare was convened October 3-12,

36. South China Daily, June 1, 1952, p. 1.

37. Yangtze Daily, June 1, 1952, p. 3.

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1951, under the aegis of the All-China Democratic Women's Federation. With national production as the prime concern the conference decided the objective of welfare work should be to serve the masses of working women and their children. Its principal tasks were to promote better health and better health conditions for women and children, and to solve the problems which arose in the rearing and education of the children of working people. At the conference it was reported that 15,700 child welfare organizations, including crêches, kindergartens, and relief institutions, had been established on the China Mainland. Another report claimed that in two years ending November 1951, some 4,340 persons were trained to care for children and 3,743 were trained as health workers to care for women and children. In the same period, 7,295,095 persons were reported to have attended the 128 exhibits arranged by propaganda agencies to promote good health among women and children.[38]

By the end of 1952, there were 34,000 public health agencies for women and children in China as a whole, with additional mobile corps for the same purpose organized under all the provincial governments. In mining and construction works, in other enterprises, in organizations and schools, 2,738 crêches were in existence in 1952; in cities, 4,346 street crêches were set up, and in the rural areas 148,200 crêches were organized to care for some 850,000 children of agricultural families.[39]

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38. New China Daily, May 30, 1953, p. 3.
39. Ibid., April 18, 1953, p. 4.